

What is Autism?

The Connection Is You™

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's **social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation**. The Autism experience is different for everyone. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is often referred to as a "spectrum condition" that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

While there is currently no known single cause of Autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive resources that can support the choices and opportunities needed to live fully.



Relationships



Communication



Self-Regulation



Social Skills

Autism Signs & Characteristics

- Repetitive behaviors, movements, or phrases
- Lack of response to normal stimuli (i.e. his/her name, visual cues)
- Atypical verbal communication or non speaking
- Difficulty understanding or expressing feelings
- Avoiding eye contact



Facts & Statistics

Over 7 million individuals in the **United States** are on the Autism spectrum; Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the U.S.

1 in 36 children are diagnosed with Autism. Since 2000, the Autism prevalence rate has been consistently increasing from one in 150 to now one in 36.



38% of children with ASD have an **intellectual disability**, 24% are in the borderline range, and 39% have average to above-average IQ scores.

Over the next decade, an estimated **700k to 1.1 million+ Autistic teens** will enter adulthood and age out of school-based services.



Vaccines do not cause Autism.

Boys are 4x more likely than girls to be diagnosed with Autism.

The cost of caring for Autistic Americans is estimated to rise to \$460+ billion by 2025 in the absence of more-effective interventions and supports. An estimated \$175 to \$196 billion of these costs are for adult services.